THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA); (a) As per the statistics available from the State Government, about 31 per cent of the foreign tourists who came to India during 1990, visited Rajasthan. A large number of domestic tourists also visited Rajasthan during the year.

(b) and (c) Central financial assistance for the development of tourism infra-structure is provided on the basis of specific proposals received from the States, subject to av-ailability of funds and relative merits. During the current financial year, the State Government of Rajasthan submited two Jproposals for augmenting tourist facilities in the State . Both these proposals have been sanctioned.

Investment in Oil Sector

1083. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to open oil sector to NRIs and for do mestic investors in the country;

(b) if so, the areas in oil sector identified in which NRIs investment will be made;

(c) whether any NRI/domestic private firm has shown interest for investment in oil sector; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRl B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Government have decided to invite international and domestic compan ies,, including NRIs, Jin the Fourth Round of biding for exploration for oil and gas.

(c) and (d) NRIs/domestic private firms have been responding in provision of various equipments and services to the national oil companies.

Tender Evaluation Norms of ONGC

1084. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain big houses in volved in offshore oil drilling are pressurising ONGC to change the tender evaluation norms;

(b) if so, what are the names of these big houses;

(c) th$_e$ reasons for asking for a change in the tender evaluation norms by these big houses; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRl B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Linking of Southern States with Gas Grid from Bombay High

1085. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHAN-DRAN: Will the Minister of PETRO-LEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to link the Southern States to Bombay High with a gas grid;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for neglecting South in the matter of linking with a gas grid; and

(c) what are the propsoals before Government to extend gas grid to South?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The matter is being examined by an Inter-Ministerial Group.